

# HISTORY OF SHELBY COUNTY,

INDIANA,

**FROM 1822 to 1876,**

BY A

COMMITTEE OF CITIZENS,

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"Wealth requires, besides the crust of bread and the roof, the freedom of the city, the freedom of the earth, traveling, machinery, the benefits of science, music, and fine arts, the best culture, and the best company."  
EMERSON.

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SHELBYVILLE, IND.:  
R. SPICER, PRINTER.

1876.

## President's Proclamation.

WHEREAS, A joint resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives was duly approved on the 13th day of March last, which resolution is as follows :

*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled,* that it be and is hereby recommended by the Senate and House of Representatives to the people of the several States that they assemble in their several counties, or towns, in the approaching Centennial anniversary of our National Independence, and that they cause to have delivered on such day an historical sketch of said county, or town, from its formation, and that a copy of said sketch may be filed in print or in manuscript in the Clerk's office of said county, and an additional copy in print or manuscript be filed in the office of the Librarian of Congress, to the intent that a complete record may thus be obtained of the progress of our institutions during the first century of their existence ; and

WHEREAS, It is deemed proper that such recommendation be brought to notice and knowledge of the people of the United States, now, therefore, I, Ulyses S. Grant, President of the United States, do hereby declare and make known the same, in the hope that the object of such resolution may meet the approval of the people of the United States, and that proper steps may be taken to carry the same into effect.

Given under my hand, at the City of Washington, this 25th day of May, in the year of our Lord, 1876, and of the independence of the United States the one hundredth. By the President,

U. S. GRANT.

HAMILTON FISH, Secretary of State.



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SHELBYVILLE, JULY 4th, 1876.

At a meeting of citizens, held in the City Hall of Shelbyville, on Monday evening, June 5th, 1876, the proclamation of the President of the United States recommending the preparation of the History and Statistics of the several Counties of the Union, for the Centennial Fourth, was considered.

Whereupon a committee for this purpose was appointed.

Having with much care and research brought together the facts and data bearing upon the history and description of Shelby County, Indiana, including its natural features, productions, industrial condition, and prospects,—we now respectfully submit the following report.

GEORGE SLUTER,  
MILTON ROBINS,  
ELBRIDGE G. MAYHEW,  
ISAAC H. WILSON,  
BELLAMY S. SUTTON,  
GEORGE W. ISLEY,  
ALFRED V. ROBINS,  
LOUIS T. MICHENER,

Committee.

## CONTENTS.

To facilitate convenience of reference and for the sake of completeness, our work will be placed under the following seven paragraphs :

I. Historical, in which will be traced the original settlement and organization of the county.

II. Descriptive, in which a description will be drawn of what this county was in 1822, as compared with 1876.

III Tabular, in which tables will be found of the early settlers, of our present inhabitants who have lived here over fifty years, of the officers of the county, the Bar, the Medical profession, the Clergy and the Mayors of Shelbyville.

IV. The statistics of the population and produce.

V. An enumeration of Public Improvements.

VI. Our Industries.

VII. Under the designation of Benevolent, we propose a glance at our schools, churches, and other intellectual and humane institutions.



# SHELBY COUNTY.

## I.

### HISTORICAL.

Upon this auspicious and glorious day of the Centennial of American Liberty it is worthy of remark, how near we came to being British subjects, even after the glorious struggle of the Revolution. When the commission met to fix the boundary between the thirteen independent colonies and the mother-country, in 1783, there were two propositions—one to take the Great Lakes and the other the Ohio River as the line of division. To the wonderful foresight of John Adams it is due that the former proposition finally prevailed; so THAT TO-DAY WE ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS AND NOT ENGLISH SUBJECTS.

The portion of territory now included within the limits of the State of Indiana was at the time of its first exploration by Europeans inhabited by the Miami Confederation of Indians. The part of the State in which our county lies was occupied by the powerful tribe of Twightwees. The State derived its name from the word Indian, the A being added to give it a feminine signification. It was first applied in 1768 to a grant of land near the Ohio, which a company of traders in that year obtained from the natives. The first white men who ever trod the soil of our commonwealth, were the French missionaries



Claude Dablon and Claude Allouez, who, in 1670-72, more than 200 years ago, passed along the west side of Lake Michigan, and entered the State somewhere North of the Kankakee River.

The first white man who ever entered the territory now occupied by Shelby County, was Mr. William Conner, an Indian trader, whose business post was at the present site of Connersville. As early as the year 1816 he was in the habit of coming up the streams in small boats, in order to barter and exchange with the Delaware Indians, who then held possession of all the lands watered by the White River and its numerous tributaries.

Our State was formally admitted into the Union, December 11th, 1816. On the 3d of October, 1818, at a treaty concluded at St. Mary's in the State of Ohio, the Indians ceded to the United States all their claims to lands lying within the boundaries of Indiana. The commissioners who negotiated this treaty were Jonathan Jennings, Lewis Cass and Benjamin Parke, and the privilege of remaining for a few years upon the lands thus disposed of was agreed to.

#### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

Within one week afterwards, Mr. Jacob Whetzell, an ex-revolutionary soldier, cut a path through the woods from Brookville to the bluffs on White River, and passing through the centre of this county. In the next month, November, 1818, came Mr. JAMES WILSON, along this path to the point where it crossed the Blue River. There he determined to settle, and began at once to erect a log cabin, into which his family entered in the month of January, 1819. He had previously resided in the neighborhood of what is now Fairfield, in Franklin County; and his son Mr. ISAAC WILSON, who has ever since been a resident here, was then a child of eleven years of age. During that winter, Mr. WILSON managed by dint of hard work to clear six acres of land, and upon this he raised a crop



of corn. To Mr. JAMES WILSON THEREFORE BELONGS THE DISTINCTION OF HAVING BEEN THE FIRST SETTLER OF SHELBY COUNTY! He lived for a time in utter solitude, eastward his nearest neighbor Mr. RICHARD THORNBURRY, 18 miles distant, and westward the nearest settlement, Mr. JACOB WHETZELL'S, 30 miles off, his cabin was literally "a lodge in a vast wilderness." Other immigrants soon arrived, and great was the pleasure when the Government surveying party, headed by Mr. McLAUGHLIN, took up its headquarters in their midst. Indians were numerous and generally well-disposed, and Mr. WILSON began to trade with them to such an extent that sometimes as many as 100 in a day came to the post. Never will the men of that period cease to laud the pleasures of the chase. They were great hunters, and game of all kinds, including the panther, was in abundance.

In 1820 the NEW PURCHASE, as it was then called, was formally surrendered to the Government, and the lands surveyed thrown into the market. With all speed the settlers hastened to the Government Land Office, located at Brookville, to make good their claims. Mr. WILSON'S farm was the southwest quarter of section 9, township 13, range 7, east.

#### THE FIRST TOWN.

The time had now arrived for starting a town; and upon his return from the land sales Mr. WILSON brought with him a professional surveyor. In co-partnership with one of his neighbors, Mr. JOHN SLEETH, a town-site with streets, alleys and a public square was thereupon regularly laid out and platted, and in honor of the brave and intrepid Revolutionary Hero, Gen. FRANCIS MARION (1732-95), called Marion. The land sales had given a new impulse to immigration, even something like the spirit of modern speculation suddenly arose, and a considerable number of lots in the embryo city were sold, in the anticipation of its becoming the capital of the future county. Marion thus has the honor of seniority among our towns.



## THE COUNTY ORGANIZED.

During the next year, 1821, while in the Old World the sun of Liberty seemed to have set in the gloom of a starless night, by the complete triumph of the Allied Powers in the death of Napoleon I., (May 5th, 1821), and while in the New World the Chief Magistrate of the United States was evolving the great Monroe doctrine, that European powers are not to acquire further territory here,—our pioneer forefathers were busily engaged in the practical pursuits of clearing farms and consulting with regard to the safety of the homes and inheritances they were providing. Their government up to this time had been of the most simple character. There were now small settlements in every part of the county, and they felt the necessity for more perfect protection in the administration of the civil law. They, therefore, petitioned the Legislature, in session at Corydon, then the capital of Indiana, to constitute and organize them into a county. The petition was granted by the Legislature, and approved by his Excellency, Hon. Jonathan Jennings, the first Governor of the State.

## OUR NAME.

The highly interesting question of giving a name to the new county was settled by fixing upon SHELBY, in honor of Governor Isaac Shelby, of Kentucky. The reasons for this choice were numerous. A good proportion of the early settlers were from Kentucky, and others had fought with Governor Shelby in the Indian wars. Besides this, he was honored as one of the foremost of the generals of the Revolution who had come West, and some of our first citizens were scar-beaten veterans of that most memorable triumph of Liberty.

ISAAC SHELBY was indeed a hero worthy of this honor, and no less than nine counties of the Union, in as many different States, now claim him for their godfather. He was born near



Hagerstown, Maryland, December 11th, 1750. When but twenty-one years of age he removed to the wilds of the West, and shortly afterwards became lieutenant of militia in an expedition against the Wea Indians. When the Revolutionary War broke out, he was selected as captain of a military company in Virginia, and in 1777 placed in charge of the commissary department for the frontier militia. In 1779 he was elected to the House of Delegates, of Virginia. For his bravery at the battle of King's Mountain, October 9th, 1780, he received a vote of thanks and a sword from the Legislature of North Carolina, of which he was elected a member in 1781 and 1782. Upon the organization of the State of Kentucky in 1792, he was chosen Governor and held the office four years, and again from 1812 to 1816. In 1793, there was a considerable movement in the West against the possessions of the Spanish Crown upon the Mississippi. Gen. George Washington, then President of the United States, ordered the Governor to check these measures. In reply he wrote a letter still preserved, in which he utters sentiments of patriotism, justice and purity, that show him to have been a man of the highest type of character. It was in the year 1813, that he joined Gen'l Wm. Hy. Harrison at the head of 4,000 gallant Kentuckians, and rendered the brilliant service in the Battle of the Thames that brought him into intimate association with Indiana people. He died in Kentucky in July, 1826, greatly beloved and lamented. Such was the man in honor of whom our County was named.

#### COUNTY SEAT.

The county having been organized, the next thing to be done was the selection of the capital. On the 31st of December, 1821, the Legislature appointed Messrs. George Bentley, Benjamin J. Blythe, Amos Boardman, Joshua Cobb, and Ebenezer Ward, commissioners for this purpose. On the first



of July, 1822, they met at the house of Mr. David Fisher, near Marion, and after being duly sworn according to law, they proceeded to examine the four sites that had been offered; namely, 1. Marion, the central geographical position of which was warmly urged; 2. Mr. Isaac Lemaster, whose farm was the same now owned by Mr. John Shaw, four miles south-west of us on the Marietta Pike, offered forty acres. 3. The Hon. John Walker offered forty acres situated one mile north-east. 4. The fourth proposition was that of three gentlemen who agreed to donate 70 acres.

The Commissioners of the Legislature spent four days in visiting and examining these sites, and weighing the arguments urged in favor of each. At last they gave the award to the seventy acre offer, the site of the present city of Shelbyville.

On this National Centennial Jubilee, we would honorably record the generosity and foresight of the founders of our city. They were Major JOHN HENDRICKS, who donated 40 acres of the above 70; the Hon. JOHN WALKER, who donated 10 acres; and Mr. JAMES DAVISON, still living a well-preserved and hale old gentleman, who donated 20 acres!

On the day upon which the Legislative Commissioners arrived at a decision—the Fourth of July, 1822—there was the greatest gathering that had yet been had by the early settlers, at a barbecue, immediately north-east of our present Fair Grounds. The selection of the Seat of Justice was there announced and received with general applause, and the occasion was long and pleasantly remembered as important and memorable.

On the next day, July 5th, 1822, the County Commissioners met the Commissioners of the Legislature, at the house of Mr. David Fisher, and formally received their report fixing the site of the capital. It was understood that the proceeds of the sale of the land donated were to defray the expense of putting up a Court House. \* The County Commissioners therefore appointed an agent, the Hon. Abel Cole, to begin the preliminary work necessary. On the 15th of August he was author-



ized to "proceed to survey or cause to be surveyed and laid off into streets, alleys and town-lots all the west half of the donation made by John Hendricks and John Walker, at and adjoining the place established for the Seat of Justice." On the 23d of September the first disposal of lots took place; and it will illustrate the financial condition of those times to recall the terms of the sale. They were these: "ONE-TWELFTH in hand, the balance in three annual payments with interest from date of sale, if not paid at maturity." Soon after this, the Public Square was cleared of trees and improvements were begun upon several lots. A discount of eight per cent. was allowed to those paying cash in full. The lots brought from \$30 to \$50 each, those fronting upon the Public Square selling for \$50. Messrs. Francis Walker, Henry Gatewood, and Ezra McCabe made the first opening in the town. Henry Gatewood bought the lot upon which the Jackson House stands for \$50. It was thus that our now so beautiful and prosperous city began.

#### FIRST THINGS.

We have seen that the first settler was Mr. James Wilson and the first town laid out was Marion.

The first birth was Miss Martha Kaster the daughter of Mr. Benjamin and Mrs. Priscilla Kaster. The first death was that of Mr. Samuel Butler, in the spring of 1821. The first marriage was that of Mr. Able Sommers to Miss Nancy Sleeth, May 16th, 1822. The ceremony was duly solemnized by the Rev. Henry Logan, the first clergyman who appears on our Records. The first will is that of Jacob Lewis, made March the 4th, 1822.

As to Buildings, the first dwelling of any kind ever erected in our County was the log cabin home of Mr. James Wilson. The first house erected upon the site of Shelbyville was the home of Mr. Francis Walker, and it stood on the northwest corner of Washington and Tompkins Streets.



As to Public Buildings, the first was the School House erected upon the Public Square, of the town of Marion, as early as the autumn of 1821. It was built of round logs, its dimensions were 16x18 feet, and its architecture was in every way of the most primitive character. The first teacher of this institution was Mr. Jonathan M. Wilson, who taught a three month's school at the rate of 75 cents per scholar.

Our first Court House was erected in 1825,—Messrs. Richard Tynor, Joseph Dawson, and David Fisher, being Commissioners. It stood upon the centre of the Public Square, and was a two-story brick building, in size 50x60 feet, having one large room below and four above. Its cost was \$3,300, and the builder was Mr. William Bushfield.

The first Court ever convened here was on the 10th of October, 1822. The first Judges were Messrs. John Sleeth and Wm. Goodrich. The first business transacted by them was to admit five applicants to the practice of the law as attorneys and counsellors, "in this Court." The first Prosecuting Attorney was Hiram W. Curry, Esq. The first oath of allegiance was that of Mr. John N. Calvert, who on the 1st of May, 1823, declared his intention to renounce the authority of King George IV of Great Britain and Ireland and to become a true and loyal citizen of the United States.

The first document upon record in our Recorder's office is a warranty deed of David and Beniah Guard to John J. Lewis, dated June 25th, 1822, and recorded July 19th of the same year. The first election ever held took place in the forks of a tree on our Public Square, for the purpose of selecting a Major of the militia, and resulted in the choice of Major Ashbel Stone. The first flour and saw mill in the county was built by Mr. John Walker, in 1822 upon the site now occupied by the Shelby Mills. Our first Postmaster was Mr. William Little, and the rate of postage in his day was 25c per letter.



## OTHER TOWNS.

In addition to Marion and Shelbyville, TWENTY-SEVEN other towns have since sprung up, which with the date of their organization and present population, will be found in chapter IV.

## TOWNSHIPS.

On the 9th of April, 1822, the County was divided into four Townships. They were separated by the Congressional township lines through the County. No. 14 was called UNION Township, No. 13 MARION, No. 12 HENDRICKS, and No. 11 NOBLE.

Not until the year 1852, under the administration of Governor Joseph A. Wright, was the present township system for the common schools introduced into our commonwealth, and Shelby County was partitioned into thirteen divisions, namely: Jackson, Washington, Noble, Liberty, Addison, Hendricks, Sugar Creek, Brandywine, Marion, Union, Hanover, Van Buren, and Moral.

## CHARACTER OF EARLY SETTLERS.

We have now recounted the principal incidents attending the origin and beginning of the county. Let us linger an instant upon the character of the men concerning whom we have spoken. While the majority of the pioneer settlers had come here to find permanent homes, and was made up of men of character, there was nevertheless a considerable minority composed of that class which is ever found skulking in the gloom of the frontier. And this will account for the large number of cases of assault and battery that figured upon our early Court Dockets. But on the other hand those days were



remarkable for their comparative exemption from capital crimes.

Churches and schools were established immediately after the settlement began. "The pioneers," says the Hon. Barnabas C. Hobbs, L.L.D., a weighty authority, "were high-toned and patriotic, and had great regard for law and order. It was not safe for any man to swear profanely when in the presence of any authority that could impose a fine. Men had to obey for wrath if not for conscience. There was a strong repugnance to immorality generally, however much the people might have been deficient in general culture or learning. They were intensely but sincerely sectarian in their religious views." \* \* "It was the age of brave men, being soon after the war 1812. Though religious they were men of honor, and ever held themselves in readiness to vindicate their honor by hard knocks when they thought it necessary."

Little remains to be said that is purely historical. The early settlers, social and industrious but unenterprising, content with small gains, and pleasures not too dearly purchased, nor shared in with an eye to business,—were not the men to create the materials for a stirring history. But we may soothe ourselves with the Proverb, "Happy is the country whose annals are a blank."

The remainder of the history, up to the present time, will be fully shown and be best seen, in the following chapters of description, tables, statistics, and the enumeration of public improvements, industries and benevolent enterprises.

## II.

### DESCRIPTIVE.

Under this comprehensive head we shall present: 1. The Topography and exact location of the County. 2. Its condition in 1822. 3. Its present resources and prospects. 4. Its Geology. 5. The Shelbyville of to-day.



## TOPOGRAPHY.

Shelby is one of the central counties of Indiana, and its north-west corner comes within a few miles of the State Capital. It is bounded on the North by Hancock County, on the East by Rush and Decatur, on the South by Decatur and Bartholomew, and on the West by Johnson and Marion. Its breadth is 17 miles East and West, and its length 24 miles North and South. It contains 408 square miles, or 261,120 acres of land.

## WHAT THIS COUNTRY WAS IN 1822.

It is impossible to judge correctly of our present condition in soil and products, and the wonderful advance that has been made since the days of our pioneer forefathers, unless we take into consideration WHAT THIS COUNTRY WAS IN EARLY DAYS, the obstacles in the way of its settlement and the limited financial and pecuniary resources of the first settlers.

It was not an inviting prairie country, like that which enchanted the early settlers of Illinois and Iowa, that our ancestors looked upon. No—it was an unbroken and almost impenetrable woodland. The people who came here, mostly from Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Virginia and Kentucky, were all poor, so poor indeed that after entering their 80 acres of land, they had in many cases not one dollar left.

Let us hear the eloquent testimony of an eye-witness. He says: "Without money, and without the assistance which money brings, they had come here to make war upon nature in one of her most forbidding forms. Where now we may see broad fields and wide pastures of open woodland, then thickly stood the great oak, the poplar, the beech, the maple, and the ash, their limbs and branches so closely intertwining, that, when clothed in their summer verdure, a shade so deep and dark was produced as to shut out the sun from May to Octo-



ber. From the damp earth below sprang a growth of UNDERBRUSH so dense that it presented in many places an impenetrable barrier to the horseman, and in some instances almost inaccessible to the footman. In connection with this, let it be born in mind that the LEVEL LANDS which occupy so large a space in this County, were at that time INUNDATED MORE THAN HALF THE YEAR. The forests were checkered over with the trunks of prostrate trees—some newly fallen, some sunk half their diameter in the oozy soil, and these lying in every direction closed the drains, till there was scarcely any escape for the flood save by the slow process of evaporation and percolation. The soil, rich as it was and is, in organic matter chemically mixing with the watery element, rendered the paths and woods almost untraversable for man or beast. There were no great roads upon which to travel; there were no markets in which to buy or sell; there were no broad fields in which to raise grain for bread. Under these circumstances, unpropitious as they were, the pioneer settlers were compelled to maintain themselves and their families. We may well imagine that it was in MANY INSTANCES A VERY STRUGGLE FOR LIFE."

Such was Shelby County fifty-four years ago. It was a forbidding and gloomy prospect one may now think. But the men who had come here went to work with a dauntless and unconquerable energy. They bore cheerfully and contentedly the toils and hardships and privations of the herculean task before them, buoyed up by the hope of leaving to their children a good inheritance.

And to-day we behold the result. They labored and we reap the fruits of their toil in the possession of one of the richest, most productive and best watered counties of the State.

#### PRESENT CONDITION.

From the picture of fifty-four years ago, let us turn to the landscape of to-day. Truly the wilderness has begun to smile and blossom as the rose! Is there anywhere a fairer domain?



It is often apologetically said, that railroads pass through the least attractive portions of a country. Such is not the case with Shelby County, Indiana. The stranger who may visit us, may enter our borders by either one of our four railroads, and in neither direction need we have the slightest anxiety as to putting the best foot foremost.

The face of the country is diversified. Around Norristown there are large and beautiful fields that skirt hills of gentle slope. Around Mt. Auburn there is land that resembles the rolling prairies of the far famed Upper Missouri. Around Morrystown you can see highlands and lowlands, studded with farms that will bear comparison with any portion of the United States. Along the Flat Rock again you behold a variety of scenery, hill and dale, plateau and undulation. And over this entire scope—embracing 261,120 acres, the soil will bear the close scrutiny of actual test. It is rich and productive and the very best evidence of its capacity may be seen in the fact which will meet the eye of the observer, that out of that soil the settlers of Shelby county have made a large and substantial prosperity. The men who settled this fair domain fifty years ago possessed little or nothing of this world's goods, and now the taxable property of the county amounts to \$15,000,000.

This county is never in peril from the drouths that so often impede the prosperity and distress the inhabitants of other sections. Streams of water, clear and fresh, that pass over pebbly beds, traverse the country in every direction. There are eight of these water courses within our bounds, with a total length of 140 miles. They furnish ample drainage and sufficient water for agricultural and mechanical purposes. And it will give a more vivid picture of the situation, to bear in mind that these rivers have on each of their banks broad bottom lands of the richest and purest soil.

One who has never seen them before will be sure to be intensely interested in the noble forests we have. Up to this time can boast of Walnut, Ash, Oak, Hickory and Elm in



abundance. The Oak, Ash, Hickory and Sugar Tree, predominate in the uplands, while the prevailing timber in the bottoms is Walnut, Ash, Hackberry, Poplar and Linn.

Near the pleasant village of St. Paul, there are extensive quarries of a superior article of Limestone. These beds of rock extend to a distance of four to five miles around that locality, and are an inexhaustible and convenient resource for the future building wants of the great cities that surround us.

The principal produce consists in Wheat and Corn. During the season large quantities of hogs are shipped. Cattle dealers from abroad purchase many beeves here, But a stranger would be especially surprised to see how many head of horses are forwarded hence to the Eastern market.

The entire county is in every direction dotted over with improvements, some of them very handsome, and all comparing favorably with the older sections of the United States.

The river beds furnish us with a most excellent substance for the construction of turnpike roads; and to what extent our people have availed themselves of it may be seen in such facts as these, that fifteen different gravel roads centre in Shelbyville, and that there are almost two hundred miles of turnpike in the county! It may be questioned whether there are many sections in which there is such fine driving, and where a good road leads to every neighborhood.

The advantages of our county it will thus be seen are SOLID AND PERMANENT, such as no crisis can sweep away and no panic shake. Our resources are based upon the inexhaustible wealth of our soil, and the singular felicity of our location.

Such is the Shelby County of to-day. It is truly one of the favored spots of the earth. These facts speak for themselves. Our lot has been cast in a locality where prosperity abounds, and where nature has provided all that man could reasonably ask in the way of productive soil, genial climate, magnificent forests, pure and limpid water, and exempt from those devastating eruptions of nature and death-dealing epidemics that



hang as a dark and forbidding back-ground over some portions of the earth. With the poet we may say,

"I have traversed many a lovely strand,  
Abroad and in my native land;  
Climed many a crag,  
Crossed many a moor,  
But by my halidom,  
A land more bright, more fair than this,  
It has not been my lot to pass."

#### THE GEOLOGY OF SHELBY COUNTY.

A very general impression prevails that this locality is depressed. It is probable that the level character of much of the surface of our land has given rise to the opinion. The very reverse, however, is the truth. While the city of Cincinnati is but 432 above the ocean, Shelbyville has an altitude of 757 feet. Our position is nearly one hundred feet higher than that of Indianapolis and nearly 250 feet higher than Lake Michigan. We are therefore upon an elevation from both sides of which, to the North and to the South, there is a slope.

The surface deposits are principally derived from the Glacial Drift, subsequently modified by fluvial action. Hence, while the soil is composed of fine impalpable clays, extensive beds of sand and gravel are found beneath the surface, and in the valleys and streams.

At the close of the Glacial Epoch this region was very deeply covered with Boulder Drift, as is plainly indicated by high mounds and ridges of gravel and boulders, reaching in height the summit level of the county. They indicate the enormous EROSION agencies, which have swept from North to South in this locality, and which have carried away the clays and finer materials, and left behind them the boulders and gravel as indices and monuments of the depth which these deposits originally had.

In the western part of the county the soil is somewhat modified by admixture of DETRITAL matter from the underlying shales, and hence its dark color and tenacious character. In



the central and eastern parts it is modified by a generous admixture of calcarious material from the lime rocks beneath.

Thus while the soil produces good crops of corn and wheat, it is magnificently adapted to the growth of grasses. "Blue-grass the Gold-finder of Indiana," flourishes with unrivalled luxuriance, and other grasses equal the production of the most favored regions.

The Rocky beds in the county comprise the Devonian and upper part of the Silurian formation. The black slate of the former, under-runs the west and south-west sides of the county and is seen only in the beds of the deepest streams. The lime-rock beds of the Devonian contain but few fossils, and the whole exhibit a thickness of from 80 to 150 feet.

The rocks of the Silurian period, succeed in age and come out to the surface from beneath the Devonian formation in the central and eastern parts of the county, and exhibit a thickness of from 40 to 70 feet. They contain a great many interesting and well-preserved fossils, which illustrate the life of the ancient Ocean, whose deep waters rolled over this region and upon whose muddy bottom these animals lived and perished.

The St. Paul and Waldron beds have long been a school to the Scientists of the world, illustrating the Geological Reports of many neighboring States, and filling Museums and Cabinets with beautiful and interesting trophies of the long-past.

An extensive business in stone is carried on at St. Paul. The stone varies in color from a bluish dove to a light gray, and is in strata of from a few inches in thickness to several feet, averaging about 18 to 20 inches. The colored stone has a great capacity for resisting fracture under weight—and is used for piers foundations, lime-work, water-tables and monumental bases. The gray stone is equally compact and adapted for door and window-caps and casings, columns and ornamental masonry. Subjected to the severest tests known to science this stone in endurance and all qualities required by the architect, is fully equal to the best, and acknowledges no superior. It



has been used in many of the costly public buildings in this region of our country, and a demonstrative example of its merit and excellence may be seen in the new Court House, at Indianapolis, the modest colors contrasting well with the neutral tints of other lime stones. This building material commands a ready market in the cities of the North, South, East and West, and tests the full capacity of the proprietors and railways to meet the demand. The shipments for the last year were 4,489 cars.

#### SHELBYVILLE IN 1876.

It is a source of great satisfaction that our county-seat has become one of the most beautiful and interesting places in the State. Its present population is 4,000, and the amount of taxable property \$1,630,920. For a long time its growth was very slow. Not until January 21st, 1850, was the town incorporated by a special act of the Legislature. George Caruthers, Sr., was elected MAYOR, and J. S. Campbell, James M. Randall, Wm. H. Coats, James H. Elliott, and E. H. Davis—COUNCILMAN. 156 votes were cast. The second election under this charter was held April 3d, 1852, and resulted in the choice of John Morrison, MAYOR; and Woodville Browning, J. M. Randall, S. Midkiff, Joseph Cummins, J. T. Bullock,—COUNCILMAN. 241 votes were cast. Population, white 1,407, and colored 17. July 25th, 1853, the office of Mayor was discontinued, and the present city organization dates from May 16th, 1860.

Since then our city has made rapid advancement in wealth and importance. Excellent and commodious business houses have been erected. Blessing's Opera House will compare favorably with any building of the kind in the State. The hall proper, while it may be surpassed in size, is not excelled in finish, convenience and ventilation. The National Bank Building, the Shelby Bank, Phoenix Block, Dr. Robbins' corner, Odd Fellows Hall, Fastlaben's, the Jackson Hotel, and other substantial brick buildings may be specially mentioned.



Among our best residences are the homes of Alonzo Blair, John Elliott, John Blessing, William E. Teal, Mrs. Loretta Corey, S. Hamilton, Mrs. Mary Montgomery, William S. Major, and J. C. Wagner. These are spacious and solid brick edifices. It would be impossible to enumerate the graceful and ornamental frame residences that loom up in every direction and indicate the comfortable circumstances and taste of their owners.

Shelbyville is remarkable for its popularity throughout the county in every direction. Often our streets present an appearance of crowding, and thrift, equal to a large city. There are more houses in demand than the supply. In railroad, telegraphic, post-office, and gas facilities, and in protection against fire, as well as in advantages of access by fine roads and the pleasures of driving amid pleasant landscape, Shelbyville stands second to no place of its size in the wide world. Our streets, graded, graveled, smooth as a floor, and thoroughly drained, owe much to the rare skill of Mr. Charles Magee, at present and for many years our Street Commissioner.

Now, as in the past, the mercantile interests of Shelbyville largely out-weigh its manufactures. However much this fact is to be deplored it is nevertheless true. It is not because there are not manufacturing facilities. Upon every hand are large forests of timber suited to manufacturing purposes. Already we have furniture, carriage and wagon shops, but not upon the scale that should exist. Abundance of walnut and ash for all grades of furniture can easily be obtained and manufactured here; and with Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis, St. Louis, and Chicago as distributing points, will command a ready market throughout the west. The same holds true in regard to other branches. Competition in railway freights secures cheap transportation, and wood and water are in abundance. Even the facilities of a HYDRAULIC are within our reach. At a point six miles above town a canal can be built at a moderate cost, conveying water along the base of



the bluff upon the north of town, giving a fall of from forty to fifty feet—sufficient for immense manufacturing purposes. The proposed route has been carefully surveyed by Mr. J. M. Elliott, who has pronounced it practicable. He also estimates the cost of the work at from \$50,000 to \$100,000—according to the manner in which it is done, the character of the bridges, &c. Conceding the immense power to be thus with comparative ease acquired, and conceding the fact that Shelbyville has lost its ability of ADVANCING A SINGLE STEP IN WEALTH OR POPULATION UNLESS MANUFACTURING INTERESTS DO CLUSTER HERE, what deduction must be drawn? Clearly none other than that the Hydraulic should be built. These facts, properly impressed upon the minds of capitalists, should result in developing the nucleus we already have into larger schemes, employing hundreds of men and scores of thousands of dollars, making the air resonant with the busy hum of machinery; the clanking of anvils, the ruddy fires of many forges, the noise of looms and spindles would then be familiar sights and sounds; and better still, THE MORE THAN HALF A MILLION OF DOLLARS ANNUALLY SENT AWAY FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS WOULD THEN BE EXPENDED HERE.

### III.

## TABULAR.

We next present the following TABULAR EXHIBIT of the History and Condition of Shelby County.

#### FIRST SETTLERS OF MARION.

David Fisher,  
John Forman,  
Balser Fox,  
James Grier,  
Benjamin Hodges,  
Benjamin Kaster,  
Bennett Michan,

Adam Rhodes,  
John Sleeth,  
Caleb Sleeth,  
William H. Sleeth,  
John Smith,  
Abel Summers,  
James Wilson,



## FIRST SETTLERS OF SHELBYVILLE.

Campbell, Joseph	Mayhew, Elisha Sr
Davison, James	Mayhew, Elisha Jr
Gatewood, Henry	Mayhew, Royal
Goodrich, William	Morris, Sylvan B.
Goodrich, Nathan	Walker John
Goodrich, George	Walker Francis
Hawkins, William	Wilson, Isaac H.
Hendricks, John	Wingate, Smith
Lee, James	Williams, Benj.
Little, William	Young, John M.
McCabe, Ezra	

## OUR OLD INHABITANTS.

THE YEAR THEY		THE YEAR THEY	
NAME.	CAME.	NAME.	CAME.
Bassett, Jonah	1821.	Johnson, John B.	1825.
Bassett, Sylvester	1821.	Johnson, Elias	1825.
Booker, A. C.	1825.	Kaster, Samuel	1825.
Cherry, Andrew J.	1823.	Kaster, William	1821.
Cherry, John	1822.	Law, William	1821.
Cherry, Thomas J.	1825.	Mayhew, Elbridge G.	1821.
Cherry, William	1823.	Montgomery, Samuel	1825.
Collins, Allen	1823.	Moore, John	1823.
Collins, Anderson	1823.	Mowery, Jacob	1825.
Collins, Eli	1823.	Nail, Obediah	1821.
Conover, Obediah	1825.	Nail, Samuel	1821.
Davis, George W.	1821.	Parish, Levi	1821.
Davis, John C.	1820.	Patterson, James	1822.
Davison, James	1821.	Rice, Michael	1826.
Fleming, Thomas H.	1826.	Robertson, Samuel B.	1825.
Gatewood, Peter D.	1821.	Robertson, Sydney	1825.
Gatewood, William H.	1821.	Robbins, Milton	1821.
Goodrich, Nathan	1821.	Sleeth, Andrew	1821.
Green, Absolom	1825.	Sleeth, Caleb	1820.
Green, Henry	1825.	Snyder, Albert	1821.
Goodrich, Thomas	1821.	Snyder, David	1821.
Hankins, William	1821.	Snyder, Daniel A.	1821.
Hinds, Michael	1825.	Snyder, Peter	1821.
Houk, David	1825.	Vanpelt, Squier L.	1826.
Houk, John	1825.	Wilson, Isaac H.	1818.
Hoffman, Fountain	1825.	Winterrowd, Joseph	1824.
Johnson, John	1823.	Worland, Leo H.	1825.

## THE FIRST GRAND JURY, OCTOBER 10, 1822.

Jas. Gregory, Foreman,	Abel Cole,	Henry Shearer,
Jesse Bird,	Zachariah Collins,	Zadock Plumer.



## County Officers from 1822 to 1876.

### STATE SENATORS.

James Gregory, 1825—31.	George W. Brown, 1853—57.
Thomas Hendricks, 1831—34.	David S. Gooding, 1857—61.
William Fowler, 1834—36.	Martin M. Ray, 1861—65.
John Walker, 1836—40.	James L. Mason, 1865—69.
Joseph B. Nickall, 1840—43.	Thomas G. Lee, 1869—71.
John Y. Kennedy, 1843—46.	Oliver J. Glessner, 1871—75.
Augustus C. Handy, 1846—49.	R. M. Slater, 1875.
James M. Sleeth, 1849—53.	

### REPRESENTATIVES IN INDIANA LEGISLATURE.

Thomas Hendricks, 1823-26.	In the session of 1840-41, Wm. W.
Lewis Morgan, 1826-27.	McCoy and Joshua B. Lucas.
John Smiley, 1827-28.	John Hendricks, 1841-42.
Sylvan B. Morris, 1828-29.	Fletcher Tevis, 1842-43.
Rezin Davis, 1829-30.	Augustus C. Handy, 1843-45.
John Smiley, 1830-31.	James R. Sleeth, 1845-46.
Sylvan B. Morris, 1831-32.	James M. Sleeth, 1846-47.
Rezin Davis, 1832-34.	William Major, 1847-48.
Jacob Shank, 1834-35.	Thomas A. Hendricks, 1848-49.
John Walker, 1835-36.	George W. Brown, 1849-51.
Erasmus Powell and Edward Gird,	William Major, 1851-54.
1836-37.	Samuel Donelson, 1853-55.
William J. Peasley and Joseph B.	Thomas A. McFarland, 1855-59.
Nickoll, 1837-38.	Jacob Mutz, 1861-65.
William J. Peasley and Erasmus	James Harrison, 1865-67.
Powell, 1838-39.	George C. Thacher, 1867-69.
William W. McCoy and Joshua B.	Isaac Odell, 1869-71.
Lucas, 1839-41.	James J. Curtis, 1871-73.
In the session of 1839, Wm. J. Mc-	Samuel D. Spellman, 1873-75.
Coy and Balis Coats.	William Patterson, 1875.

### CLERKS.

Hiram Albridge, from 1822 to 1829.	Alonzo Blair, from 1859 to 1867.
S. B. Morris, from 1829 to 1843.	Jacob G. Wolf, from 1867 to 1871.
Jacob Vernon, from 1843 to 1855.	John Elliott, from 1871 to 1875.
Alexander Miller, from 1855 to 1859.	B. S. Sutton, at present.
Wm. C. Miller, 1858-1859.	

### SHERIFF'S

Sevier Lewis, 1822, died in office—Isaac Templeton appointed to serve unexpired term.	
John Walker, from 1824 to 1828.	S. L. Vanpelt, from 1854 to 1858.
Jacob Shank, from 1828 to 1832.	H. H. Bogess, from 1858 to 1860.
Elisha Baker, 1832-36.	Henry Doble, from 1860 to 1864.
John Stewart, from 1836 to 1840.	Howard Lee, from 1872 to 1876.
Apollio Kinsley, from 1840 to 1844.	E. B. Amsden, from, 1864 to 1868.
William Wood, from 1844 to 1850.	John Hoop, from 1868 to 1870.
Alex. Miller, from 1850 to 1854.	Ithamer Spurlin, from 1870 to 1872.



## RECORDERS.

William H. Sleeth, from 1822 to 1835. David Loudon, from 1850 to 1867.  
 Milton Robbins, from 1835 to 1842. Cyrenus Bishop, from 1867 to 1871.  
 John S. Campbell, from 1842 to 1855. Thos. J. Cherry, from 1871 to 1875.  
 James Millesen, from 1855 to 1859. A. V. Robins, at present.

## AUDITORS.

Vorohes Conever, from 1840 to 1847. Squier L. Vanpelt, from 1859 to 1867.  
 John H. Stewart, from 1847 to 1851. Robert W. Wiles, from 1867 to 1875.  
 John J. White, from 1851 to 1859. George W. Isley, at present.

## TREASURERS.

William Davis, 1822—23. Elias M. Wilson, 1856—60.  
 Elijah Mawhew, 1823—39. Andrew J. Winterowd, 1860—62.  
 Thomas H. Fleming, 1839—42. William M. Phillips, 1862—66.  
 Levi Lainger, 1842—44. Fountain G. Robinson, 1866—70.  
 John Cartmill, 1844—50. James M. Sleeth, 1870—74.  
 Alexander Miller, 1850—54. James O. Parrish, at present.  
 Isaac H. Wilson, 1854—56.

## COMMISSIONERS.

Wm. Goodrich,	V. Conover,	James Rule,	Wm. S. Ensley,
Calvin Kinsley,	John Sleeth,	Thomas Clayton,	C. Girtan,
Alexander Vanpelt,	James Robertson,	Sam'l Montgomery,	Geo. Senior,
Elias Millikin,	W. A. Doble,	Henry Buck,	Edmund Cooper,
Elijah Tyner,	Hugh Campbell,	Moses P. Higgins,	St. Clair Ensimer,
David Fisher,	George Conger,	Alex. Cory,	Louis Fessenbeck,
Joseph Dawson,	Jacob Fox,	J. J. Curtis,	Ithamer Davison.
Adam Mow,	John Kern,	John McConnel,	
Ashbel Stone,	Gideon Stafford,	Geo. W. Davis,	

## CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Wm. W. Wick, 1822 to 1826.	Wm. M. McCarty, 1853 to 1858.
B. F. Morris, 1826 to 1833.	Reuben D. Logan, 1858 to 1865.
Jas. Morrison, 1833 to 1840.	Jerry M. Wilson, 1865 to 1868.
Wm. W. Wick, 1840 to 1847.	S. P. Oyler, 1868 to 1870.
Wm. J. Peaslee, 1847 to 1853.	D. D. Banta, 1870 to 1876.

## ASSOCIATE JUDGES.

John Sleeth, Jos Dawson, 1829-1836. David Thatcher, Calville Pierce—  
 John Sleeth, A. Williams, 1836-1843. office discontinued.  
 Ira Bailey, Thos. Cotton, 1843-1850.

## PROBATE JUDGES.

Erasmus Powell, 1822 to 1836.	Wm. H. Sleeth, 1843 to 1850.
Jacob Kennerly, 1836 to 1843.	Cyrus Wright, 1850 to 1853.



## COMMON PLEAS.

James M. Sleeth, 1853 to 1861.  
George A. Buskirk, 1861 to 1865.

O. J. Glessner, 1865 to 1869.  
Richard L. Coffey, 1869 to 1873.

## The Bar.

IN 1822.

Brackinridge, A.  
Curry, Hiram W.

Dolany, James  
Fletcher, Calvin

Test, Charles

IN 1876.

Adams, E. K.  
Adams, Thomas B.  
Berryman, N. B.  
Blair, Alonzo  
Daugherty, H. H.  
Conner, William Z.  
Feibleman, L.  
Fuget, I. W.  
Glessner, Oliver J.  
Hart, James C.  
Harrison, James

Higgins, A. J.  
Haymond, James W.  
Hord, Kendall M.  
Hockman, James T.  
Love, Benjamin F.  
Major, Alfred  
Major, Stephen  
Major, S. L.  
Mayhew, Elbridge G.  
McFadden, James B.  
McGuire, James E.

Mitchner, Louis T.  
Morrison, C. W.  
Norris, Richard  
Odell, Isaac  
Ray, H. C.  
Ray, W. Scott  
Wells, R. S.  
Whitcomb, Harry  
Wilson, D. L.  
Wright, Geo. M.  
Wright, J. T.

## The Medical Profession of Shelbyville in 1876.

Clayton, J. R. (dentist)  
Day, S. D.  
Green, William F.  
Fleming, George W.  
Kennedy, Samuel A.

Long, Henry  
Leach, Ellet W.  
McFadden, W. G.  
Parrish, J. W.  
Perry, John

Rice, J. S. (dentist)  
Robbins, Milton  
Robbins, James P.  
Slœcum, John C.  
Walker, John C.

## Mayors of Shelbyville.

Georgē Caruthers,  
John Morrison, Sr.  
Wm. Hacker,

James Elliott,  
James E. Maguire,  
John S. Campbell,

Fletcher Meredith,  
Stephen Allen,  
George C. Morrison.

## The Clergy of Shelbyville in 1876.

Bassett, Miles—Baptist.  
Eshmeyer, J. H.—Presbyterian,  
Harrison, Thomas—M. E.  
Jolly, William T.—Baptist,  
Kent, Eliphalet—Presbyterian,  
Kent, Joseph H.—Presbyterian,  
Morrison, Samuel—Methodist.

Reece, John—Baptist,  
Roberts, John A.—Christian,  
Roberts, Robert—M. E.  
Rudolph, Francis J.—Catholic  
Sluter, George—Presbyterian,  
Tucker, Daniel—M. E.



# Official Directory—1876.

## COUNTY OFFICERS.

Wm. Patterson, Representative,	St. C. Ensminger, Com'r 1st District,
E. T. Keightley, Joint Representative,	Ithamar Davison, " 2d "
B. S. Sutton, Clerk,	Edmund Cooper, " 3d "
T. H. Lee, Sheriff,	Chas. F. Webster, Surveyor,
Geo. W. Isley, Auditor,	John Maholm, Coroner,
J. O. Parrish, Treasurer,	S. L. Major, County Superintendent.
Alf. V. Robins, Recorder,	

Hon. David D. Banta, of Johnson County, Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit.

W. S. Ray, of Shelby County, Prosecuting Attorney of the 16th Judicial Circuit.

Circuit Court convenes on the first Monday of March, fourth Monday in May, fifth Monday in September and third Monday in December, and continues seven weeks each term.

Commissioners Court convenes on the first Monday in March, June, September and December, and continues nine days each term.

## JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.

Levi Runshe, Joe. W. Sandefur, . . . . .	Jackson Township.
Wm. M. Deiwert, Jno. Clark, . . . . .	Washington "
S. H. Gregory, M. L. Copeland, Thos. J. Jones, . . . . .	Noble "
J. L. Midkiff, Thad. Lewis, . . . . .	Liberty "
A. J. Higgins, Michael Posz, L. Feibleman, R. Norris, . . . . .	Addison "
Jesse Shaw, Wm. F. Higgins, . . . . .	Hendricks "
Wm. P. Heldon, Jno. Fraser, . . . . .	Sugar Creek "
J. L. Monjar, T. B. Carey, I. D. Tull, . . . . .	Brandywine "
Sampson Meiks, Michael Rice, . . . . .	Marion "
Thos. Moberly, E. W. Hester, . . . . .	Union "
Samuel Stiers, M. A. Sleeth, . . . . .	Hanover "
Samuel Martin, Jno. F. Room, . . . . .	Van Buren "
A. J. Smith, . . . . .	Moral "

## TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES.

Thomas Stine, . . . . .	Jackson Township.
Wm. E. Deacon, . . . . .	Washington "
F. W. Avery, . . . . .	Noble "
Jasper Heck, . . . . .	Liberty "
Conrad Schroeder, . . . . .	Addison "
Henry L. Ross, . . . . .	Hendricks "
Ben. Farmrbough, . . . . .	Sugar Creek "
Wm. Goodwin, . . . . .	Brandywine "
Alfred Fox, . . . . .	Marion "
L. H. Branson, . . . . .	Union "
M. B. Chadwick, . . . . .	Hanover "
Geo. W. Davis, . . . . .	Van Buren "
Dan. B. Smith, . . . . .	Moral "



## STATISTICAL.

The statistics of our County we give under the following heads:

## THE TOWNS.

NAMES OF TOWNS.	Dates of Organization	Population in 1875.
Shelbyville, . . . . .	Sept. 23, 1822,	—
Morristown, . . . . .	May 3, 1828,	225
Middletown, . . . . .	June 19, 1829,	150
Mt. Pleasant, . . . . .	June 2, 1831,	—
Brandywine, . . . . .	August 6, 1832,	15
Gelletsburg, . . . . .	January 17, 1833,	—
Savannah, . . . . .	June 9, 1834,	—
Cynthianna, . . . . .	August 19, 1835,	100
Scottsville, . . . . .	Feb. 23, 1835,	—
Freeport, . . . . .	March 7, 1836,	60
Pleasant View, . . . . .	July 6, 1836,	50
Blackhawk (now Mt. Vernon), . . . . .	January 18, 1837,	89
Dobletown, . . . . .	October 3, 1837,	10
New Holland, . . . . .	April 29, 1837,	—
Houghburg (now Boggstown), . . . . .	July 16, 1838,	—
Vinton, . . . . .	March 20, 1838,	—
Marietta, . . . . .	June 19, 1839,	175
Smithland, . . . . .	October 28, 1851,	50
London, . . . . .	July 21, 1852,	100
Fairland, . . . . .	October 21, 1852,	500
Brookfield, . . . . .	Nov. 26, 1853,	75
Geneva, . . . . .	October 28, 1853,	40
Fountaintown, . . . . .	Dec. 23, 1854,	260
Stroupville (now Waldron), . . . . .	March 27, 1854,	400
Flatrock, . . . . .	May 2, 1855,	30
St. Paul, . . . . .	April 4, 1856,	100
Prescott, . . . . .	June 28, 1867,	25
Boggstown, . . . . .	Feb. 17, 1869,	75

## POPULATION OF THE COUNTY.

1840.....	12,502	1860.....	19,360
1850.....	15,671	1870.....	21,981

The increase in population has been more rapid during the past four or five years than any previous period of equal length, and the enumeration of school children 8399 indicates a population of at least 24,000.



## TAXABLE PROPERTY.

The increase in valuation of taxable property has exceeded the increase in population, viz :

	Lands and Improvements.	Per. Property.	Total.
1850.....	\$1,658,636	\$753,845	\$2,412,481
1860.....	5,237,200	1,816,875	7,054,075
1870.....	8,376,065	2,941,585	11,317,650
1875.....	11,157,980	3,115,495	14,313,475

## ACREAGE OF THE TOWNSHIPS.

Jackson,	21,066	Hendricks,	22,774	Hanover,	17,092
Washington,	21,352	Sugar Creek,	14,777	Van Buren,	17,597
Noble,	22,484	Brandywine,	13,500	Moral,	22,957
Liberty,	14,611	Marion,	15,278		
Addison,	34,965	Union,	16,606		

## ACRES IN CULTIVATION.

Wheat,	50,000	Oats,	2,300	Pasture,	36,000
Corn,	53,000	Meadow,	9,000		

## LIVE STOCK.

Horses,	8,100	Cattle,	1,600	Hogs,	50,000
Mules,	1,000	Sheep,	6,500		

## PRODUCE.

Wheat, bu.	580,000	Potatoes,	19,000	Hay, tons,	6,000
Corn,	2,100,000	Barley,	16,000	Lime, bu.	46,000
Rye,	300	Grass & Clev'd	600	Tobacco, lbs	70,000
Oats,	17,000	Fruit,	22,000		

## MISCELLANEOUS.

Pianos,	65	Mel. & Organs,	133	Sewing Mach's,	1,285
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## V.

## PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

The principal Public Improvements of Shelby County are the following :

## THE OLD STATE ROAD.

This was made as early as 1821. It began at Lawrenceburg, ran thence to Napoleon and Greensburg, and passed through our bounds from south-east to



north-west. This was for many years an exceedingly important thoroughfare, as affording communication with the Ohio River.

### THE MICHIGAN ROAD.

The Michigan Road originally ran from Michigan City to Indianapolis, thence to Madison by way of Shelby County. It passes through our limits in a west-north-west course. It was constructed in accordance with an Act of Legislature, dated January 13th, 1830, and was paid for by a donation of land from the "Chiefs and Warriors of the Potawatamie tribe of Indians."

### TURNPIKES.

The projector of our turnpike system was the late Mr. Alexander Cory; Mr. James E. Maguire, then a Justice of the Peace, drafted the first articles of organization for a company; and Mr. Jerry Weakley was the first contractor, and threw the first shovel of earth, upon the first gravel road in the county—the one leading from Shelbyville to Morristown. This was in 1860. At present we have the following:

NAME.	MILES.	NAME.	MILES.
Shelbyville and Morristown.....	10	Shelbyville, Smithland & Marietta	7½
Edinburg, Flat Rock and Norist'n	11½	Michigan Road.....	6
Mt. Auburn and Lewis Creek.....	9½	Shelbyville and Brandywine.....	2½
Jackson Gravel Road Co.....	3	Brandywine, Boggstown and Sugar	
Hope and Norristown.....	1½	Creek.....	4
Shelbyville, Flat Rock and Noris-		Fairland Company.....	4½
town.....	12	Shelbyville and Indianapolis.....	4
St. Paul and Norristown.....	9½	Fairland and Shelbyville Co.....	2
Flat Rock and Waldron.....	5½	Fairland and Brandywine Co.....	1¼
Shelbyville and Cynthiana.....	4	Northern Co.....	1
Shelbyville and Chapel.....	7	Brandywine Junction.....	1
County Line and Chapel.....	5	Morristown and Hanover... ..	5¾
Waldron and Middletown.....	1	Blue River, and Chapel.....	4
Shelbyville and Columbus.....	4½	Marion Township.....	5½
Shelbyville and Rushville.....	4	Morrison Turnpike Co.....	4½
Shelbyville and Marietta.....	10		
Lewis Creek and Shelbyville.....	3	Total miles.....	154

### RAILROADS.

There are at present four railroads in our county. 1. The Indianapolis, Cincinnati and LaFayette, passes through diagonally from northwest to southeast. 2. The Columbus and Rushville (a branch of the Pennsylvania Central) from south to northwest. 3. The Martinsville and Cincinnati, from Fairland south west, and 4. The Hamilton and Cincinnati, through the northeastern corner of the county. In all 60 miles of railroad.

In former days there existed here an intense prejudice against railroads. To overcome this the late Judge William J. Peaseley had on exhibition in one of the



stores on the Public Square a miniature model of a track and cars, with which he used to enforce his arguments concerning their feasibility and advantage. At last a wooden railroad, one and a fourth miles in length was built and at a grand celebration of the 4th of July, 1834, put into operation. This is supposed to have been the first railroad of any kind west of the Alleghany Mountains. Prejudice has vanished before experiment, and now no county in the State excels ours in railroad facilities. The history of their construction we give in the language of Mr. Jasper H. Sprague, of our city :

"The Shelbyville Lateral Branch, connecting Shelbyville with the Madison and Indianapolis road at Edinburg, was located in the year 1846 and completed in 1849-50. Length 16 miles. Major John Hendricks was the first President. *This was the second railroad constructed in the State of Indiana, and the third one in the United States west of Cincinnati—Madison and Indianapolis being the first and the Louisville and Portland the second.*

The second railroad, the Rushville and Shelbyville, 19 miles in length, and also the Knightstown and Shelbyville, 25 miles in length, were located in 1847 and completed at about the same time as the lateral branch. The first President and projector of the Knightstown road was Henry B. Hill, of Carthage. Dr. Helm was first President of R. & S. road.

The next in order of time, located in Shelby county, was the Lawrenceburgh & Upper Mississippi road, now known as the Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette railroad. The location was commenced at Lawrenceburgh in the fall of 1849, and completed to Indianapolis in 1853—length 90 miles. The projector and first President of this important road was Hon. Geo. H. Dunn, of Lawrenceburgh, from whose indefatigable industry and perseverance Shelby county has derived more substantial benefit in her material interests than from the labor of any other single individual in our State. To those who will succeed the present generation, and especially the farmers of Shelby county, it may be interesting to know that before the construction of railroads, corn was a drug at 10 cents per bushel; wheat 35 to 40 cents; pork \$1.50 to 2 per 100 lbs net; good beef steak  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 cents per pound, and other products in proportion."

#### BRIDGES.

A few years ago the County Commissioners commenced a systematic plan of bridging the rivers and streams at the principal crossings. Thus far ten substantial and elegant iron bridges, with stone abutments and piers have been put up, and each year one or more are added. They are erected in the most substantial and durable manner, and if properly looked after will last for a generation or more. In addition to these numerous wood bridges span the smaller streams.

#### COUNTY COURT HOUSE.

Our present Court House was built in 1852, Messrs. John Kern, James F.



Rule and Thomas Clayton, being commissioners. Its size is 75x100 feet, dimensions of court-room 60x75; its cost was \$47,000. It is located on grounds donated to the county by Messrs. Jeremiah Bennett and Edward Toner.

#### JAIL.

The first County Jail stood upon the Public Square, it was built of logs and cost probably \$200. It was erected in 1823.

The second Jail stood upon the corner of Harrison and Broadway. It was also a log structure; cost about \$300, built in 1826.

The third Jail stood upon the square adjoining the present Court House; cost about \$1,000, built of stone, in 1841.

The Jail Building now in use, was erected in the years 1872-74, Messrs. Edmund Cooper, St. Clair Ensminger, and Louis Fessenbeck, being Commissioners. Its size 50x95. It contains 18 cells and two Hospital Rooms in the prison department, and nine rooms in the Sheriff's residence. Its cost was \$52,000.

#### CITY HALL.

The City Hall of Shelbyville, situated on the North side of West Washington Street, is a handsome brick edifice 30x60 feet in size. It is surmounted by a cupule for the fire alarm bell. The first floor contains the engine-room and city prison; the second floor, the Mayor's office and Council Chamber, which are comfortably arranged. Its original cost was \$2,800; about \$300 has since been spent upon it in improvements.

#### GAS WORKS.

The Shelbyville Gas Works were built in the spring of 1874 by Messrs. Luce & Bro., of Ashtabula, Ohio. The city was first lighted on the evening of April 26th, 1874. The works passed into the hands of the present company, July 1st, 1874. The amount of capital stock is \$20,000, and it is held at par. The present officers are Mr. John H. Leefers, President, and Mr. G. W. F. Kirk, Secretary.

#### STEAM FIRE ENGINE.

In 1874 a first class steam fire engine was purchased together with reel and 1,000 feet of hose, at a cost of \$6,000, and it has already more than paid for itself by valuable services. Mr. William Morgan is the engineer.

#### CEMETERY.

In 1824, at the second sale of the lots comprising the donation of Major John Hendricks, Hon. John Walker and Mr. James Davison, four acres of the extreme north-east corner were purchased by Mr. ARTHUR MAJOR, and donated



to the city as a Burial Place. He paid the price, but did not call for a deed. In the settlement of his estate, after his death, these facts were elicited and duly recorded; and then the county made a deed direct to the city. Since that time several acres more have been added. This spot has of course, in the lapse of these long years, become the centre of a deep and touching interest and sentiment, as holding the precious remains of so many of the Loved and Gone Before. Here lie numbers of the First Settlers in their often plain and unmarked graves. Of late years some beautiful monuments of marble and Scotch granite have been erected. It is the cherished intention to place here a Soldier's Monument, inscribed with the names of our fallen heroes of the war of the Rebellion. The grounds are kept in good order, and surrounded by a graceful iron fence.

## VI.

## INDUSTRIES.

As in the physical constitution of man a variety of organs have each their appropriate and indispensable function, so the actual necessities of the body-politic give rise to the several branches of industry—each augmenting the wealth-producing power of the other, with agriculture as the basis of them all.

### NEWSPAPERS.

The first place among industries in our age is occupied by Journalism. The overwhelming influence of the Press is that which pre-eminently distinguishes the civilization of the 19th century. The Orator of the Athenian Assembly and the Roman Forum influenced mainly those his voice could reach; but with us a Speaker has scarcely uttered the last sentence before his exordium is *in print*. The *universal address*, which the Press affords, makes the people's heart to vibrate to the skilful touch of the editor; for many a man will read a newspaper article, who would never open the ponderous and recondite quarto. Forty-four years ago, in 1832, the first enterprise in Journalism was begun here, by Mr. W. H. Heslip, under the classic and significant title of "The Argus," the hundred-eyed myth of the ancients. After many changes and business reverses the Press of 1876 in our midst is represented by the following journals: THE SHELBY REPUBLICAN, Mr. Sim. J. Thompson editor and proprietor. THE VOLUNTEER, Mr. John Hoop editor and proprietor, and THE INDEPENDENT, Mr. Reuben Spicer, editor and proprietor.

### BANKING.

Previous to 1851, all money transactions with the great cities was done by carrying the amount, usually in saddle-bags, to Indianapolis or Cincinnati. In



that year the banking business had its origin here in the establishment of a private bank by Messrs. Elliott, Hill & Co. (John Elliott, James Hill, Samuel Hamilton and Alfred Major.) Out of this in 1858 grew two enterprises, the Shelby Bank of Mr. Samuel Hamilton, which still exists, and the bank of Messrs. Elliott and Major, which continued till 1865; and then sold out to Elliott & Co., who merged their business in the First National Bank. Wonderful strides have been made in this department since its commencement here. From one depositor, as on the first day, there have been as many as 400 in a single day. The deposits of Messrs. Elliott & Major rose to above \$300,000 per annum, and the First National has even exceeded that. Of the Shelby Bank Mr. Sam'l Hamilton is Manager and Proprietor, and Mr. Thomas W. Fleming, Cashier; and of the First National, Mr. John Elliott, President; Mr. Alfred Major, Vice President, and Mr. John H. Young, Cashier.

#### MANUFACTURES.

The Planing Mill owned at present by Mr. Geo. W. Kennedy, originated in a small establishment of the same kind located near the river, and built by Mr. JOSEPH R. STEWART, in 1853. *This first manufacturing enterprise of Shelbyville* being destroyed by fire, Mr. Stewart ventured again and this time upon a larger and more perfect scale, until after various vicissitudes, it is now in its machinery and arrangements a model of completeness in every respect. The main building is 50x80 feet, two-stories; attached to it is the engine-room, a two-story brick 22x32, the second floor being a drying-room. The machinery is of the best patterns, and embraces all that can be used to advantage.

The Blue River Furniture Factory, owned by Messrs. Conrey, Wallar and Deprez, occupies a large and commodious brick building for office, sales-room and packing. The factory itself, 40x80, three-stories high, is one mile west of the city. Its machinery is propelled by a never-failing water-power. This establishment does a wholesale and retail business of \$100,000 per annum, and gives steady employment to a large number of mechanics.

There are three Flouring and one Saw Mills in Shelbyville and many of both throughout the county. A Mineral Water Factory has been established. One mile from town there is a Distillery, not in operation. There are two Tanneries here and a number of them in the country. Also Brick and Tile yards, two Coopering Shops, and the carriage making is represented by three firms, Messrs. McGuire and Jennings; M. Carithers and James Smart.

The "Pine Hill Nursery," of Mr. Noah Milleson, the "Blue River Vegetable Garden" of Jacob Buescher, three Dairies and the Hot House for ornamental flowers, of the late Fountain G. Robertson, are in and around our city.

#### AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Many years ago the farmers of Shelby were deeply concerned in the objects of an Agricultural Society and had Fair Grounds, but the organization ceased



in 1863. In 1872, the present "Shelby County Agricultural and Joint Stock Association" was founded. Forty-five acres of ground admirably located for the purpose, well shaded, with abundance of pure water accessible, one-half mile east of our city, was purchased and fenced. Since then the necessary buildings and improvements have been made. The track, one-half mile in length is one of the finest in the State. Floral Hall, 50x80, is light, airy and graceful. Agricultural and Mechanical Halls, each 30x50, are in good taste and well adapted to their purposes. John Blessing is President and Albert J. Gorgas, Secretary.

### THE GRANGE.

In 1873 the first lodge, Pioneer No 152, was organized. There are now 30 granges. The increase of membership has been at the rate of 600 per annum. Five Halls have been erected and more are in progress. The Shelbyville Pomona, or fifth degree grange is located in our city. Its object is the highest elevation of Husbandry, and it has also the powers and functions of a High Court. Total membership in the county 2,000, representing a capital of from three to five million dollars.

## VII.

### BENEVOLENT.

Under this general classification, we propose a survey of our schools, churches, and other educational and humane institutions.

#### CHURCHES.

In Shelbyville there are the following eight churches: The Methodist Episcopal, The Second M. E., The First Baptist, The Second Baptist, The Catholic Church of St. Joseph, The Christian, The First Presbyterian, The Second Presbyterian German. Throughout the county in every school district, there are one or more ecclesiastical organizations.

#### SCHOOLS.

Indiana has a larger invested school fund than any other State in the Union, and we have shared abundantly in its beneficent influences. The first report from Shelby County to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is dated 1855. The statistics since are as follows:



Number of	1855	1860	1865	1870	1875
School Days, . . . . .	60	65	69	93	123
Teachers, . . . . .	40	90	115	129	178
Scholars, . . . . .	1790	4440	5563	6398	6489
Dollars Expended, . . . . .	1933	7517	12290	23263	37471

## SCHOOL HOUSES.

	1865	1870	1875
Log, . . . . .	6	2	—
Frame, . . . . .	98	97	94
Brick, . . . . .	7	15	36
Value, . . . . .	5688	89500	139905

The total number of persons between 4 and 21 years during the year ending May 1st, 1876, was 8,399, and the amount distributed to the various school corporations, \$14,147.10.

For a complete and valuable history of the schools of Shelbyville, we refer to their last Annual Report, by Prof. Wm. A. Boles, the Superintendent. The first teacher here was William Hawkins, and the first public school house a plain log cabin, on the south-east corner of the Public Square. Our present Seminary is massive and commodious, and was erected at a cost of \$35,000. The school has both the Higher and English departments. Upwards of 800 children are in attendance.

The Sisters of St. Francis conduct a school under the auspices of the Catholic Church.

We have also a Classical Academy for Youths and Misses, where the music of the Great Masters and the Ancient and Modern Languages are taught. Prof. J. Martin is the Principal and Proprietor.

## MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES.

The ancient and honorable fraternity of MASONS that has enacted so distinguished a role in the History of the World, was established in our midst by some of the earliest settlers. In the year 1820, the Hon. Abel Cole came with his family and settled in the northern part of the county—being the fourth family located here. Shortly after him followed David Tracy, M.D., Justice Ferris, Joseph Adams, Chandler Huntingdon, Percy Kitchel, John Walker and Nathan Johnson. In June, 1825, these eight Honored Brethren joined in a petition to the then Grand Master of Masons of Indiana, His Excellency Jonathan Jennings, for authority to organize a lodge at Hanover, in Shelby county. Their request was granted, June 17th, 1825—the day upon which the Corner Stone of Bunker Hill Monument was laid with the Masonic ceremonies by General Lafayette. The lodge was then duly organized and worked regularly until the meeting of the Grand Lodge on the 5th of October, 1825 when their work was approved and a charter granted by which it has continued to the present time.



The strength of the order now may be judged by the large number of lodges in our own and adjoining counties that have sprung from this beginning. In the county: Farmer's Lodge No. 147, at Morristown; Morristown Lodge, No. 193 at Morristown; Waldron Lodge No. 217, at Waldron; St. Paul Lodge No. 218, at St. Paul, and Sugar Creek Lodge No. 279, at Boggs town. In Shelbyville: Shelby Lodge No. 28, W. Hacker Lodge No. 360, Shelby Chapter No. 20 of Royal Arch Masons, Shelby Council No. 3 of Royal and Select Masters, Baldwin Commandery No. 2 of Knights Templars.

These lodges are all in successful operation and faithfully at work in carrying out their moral and benevolent objects. The venerable Brother William Hacker, whose profound researches in the lore of Masonry have a national reputation, resides in our midst.

ODD-FELLOWSHIP was introduced into Shelby County, November 13th, 1846, by the organization of Shelby Lodge No. 89, upon the petition of Brothers John L. Robinson, William Hacker, John Cartmill, John M. Woollen, Joseph L. Silcox, and Hiram Comstock. Just 30 years ago to-day there were but three Odd-fellows in the entire county, and yet in all these years the regular weekly meeting required by their laws has only in one solitary instance been omitted, and that was in July, 1850, during the cholera, when this faithful little band were so engrossed in ministrations to the sick, that it was impossible to assemble a lawful quorum. The funds accumulated and invested by them now amount to \$10,000, augmented annually by 15 per cent. of the entire revenues. There are also lodges at Smithland, Hiawatha No. 193; at Waldron, Waldron No. 197; and at Fairland, Dove No. 258; all of which are earnestly at work in carrying out the humane objects of the Brotherhood.

In addition to the above, there are in Shelbyville organizations of Young Men's Christian Association, Temperance, Red Men, and Harigardi.

#### THE COUNTY FARM.

The care of the unfortunate and the poor was attended to and provided for at an early day. The present County Farm is five miles south of Shelbyville, upon the Norristown pike, on the banks of Lewis Creek. It contains 160 acres, purchased of Mr. John Lemaster, July 3d, 1847. The present building was erected in 1851 at a cost of \$15,000. It is 60x100 feet in size, of brick, two-stories high, with a central part and two wings; and is well arranged and adapted to its objects. There are 51 inmates now.

#### LIBRARIES.

As early as the year 1824, a Public Library was begun in Shelbyville. It grew to considerable size and value; was long known as the "Mechanics Library;" had connected with it a thriving Lyceum in which the citizens of that day expatiated upon the exciting topics of the times and some trained themselves for eminence in the Bar and Forum. In 1852 the Library was destroyed in the conflagration of the Seminary building. At present there are in Shelbyville the following Public Libraries: The Township, the Methodist Sunday School, The Presbyterian Congregational, Robbins Circulating, and The Public School Library. Besides these, there are township libraries in every township of the county.



## MUSICAL.

In Shelbyville a Philharmonic Society, under the direction of Edward Carlyle, is in successful operation. Private Musical Instructors: Miss Amanda Mayhew, Miss Lizzie Maxwell, Miss Ella Mayhew, and Mrs. Joseph H. Kent.

## SCIENTIFIC.

A Telescope of great size and power is in the possession of one of our citizens, Dr. Fitch, of Morristown. The Shelbyville Graded Schools own a large amount of Chemical Apparatus, and in our Private Academy for Youths and Misses, besides a large Microscope, there is a cabinet of 120,000 specimens of Coleoptera.

## CONCLUSION.

We have now completed this comprehensive view of the past and present of Shelby County, Indiana. We have taken an historical retrospect of the beginnings of settlement here; and by accurate description of the physical features *then*, especially in its unbroken and trackless forests, as compared with the cultivation, verdure and beauty of to-day, we have exhibited the great and striking transformations and improvements, that the truly *heroic industry* of the farmers of Shelby County have wrought. In the tabular portion of our report, we have carefully sought to embalm the Memory and Good Name of the Founders of this County, and those to whom its government and interests have since been chiefly committed. Let us cherish and venerate those who bore the heat, and burden of those early days of privation, and let us congratulate ourselves upon the pleasing recollection of such excellent and worthy predecessors. In the Statistics we have shown our remarkable growth. The census of two or three hundred in 1822, has grown to a population of at least 24,000 in 1876. While in some portions of the Old World that have been populated for thousands of years, as for example in the parts of Turkey where war is now imminent, not more than one-tenth of the land is even yet in cultivation, in our County, out of 261,120 acres—150,000 were last year in actual cultivation. The less than 100 horses of 1822 have increased to MORE THAN 10,000 in 1876. Compare the six acres of corn raised by James Wilson in 1821, with the 2,100,000 bushels of last year! As to prices and values—the walnut trees that then were burned by scores and hundreds in order to get rid of them, would now bring on an average at least \$50 each, and be in great demand at that. The land that was then sold for \$1.25 is now coveted and sought after at from \$40 to \$100 per acre. Think of the day in 1822 when a few hundred dollars would have been a good price for



all improvements in the whole county, and compare it with the \$15,000,000 of taxable property of to-day! Our Statistics certainly prove PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY. Our Exhibit of Public Improvements, Industries and Intellectual and Moral features, will, we have no hesitancy in claiming compare well with other counties. We have thus demonstrated that we have within our bounds every element of Prosperity and Progress. Shelby County is not a *dead* but a *live* community. It is not a decaying but an improving place. It is not going backwards but forwards. As in the past so in the time that is to come our motto shall be: *Ne Plus Ultra!*

Let us ardently and sacredly remember this Glorious Day in order to observe it properly.

A few weeks ago a great orator of France, in referring to our National Centennial Jubilee, uttered these remarkable words: "To unfurl a banner to the wind, to beat the drum, to parade guns, infantry and cavalry, in order to frighten the peaceable citizens by this image of war—such is the fashion of celebrating great events in France; but it is not equal to the *American idea*, which consists in celebrating the festivals of peace by the *pacific spectacle of universal industry*."

We are carrying out this grand American idea to-day. In compliance with the wise provisions of Congress and the Proclamation of our Chief Magistrate, we have recounted the annals and condition of the place we live in.

Two years ago the whole world stood by admiringly when Iceland celebrated her 1,000th year. To-day we celebrate our 100th.

Truly our festival is superior. Our festival of Liberty is a festival of *Industry*, and of the achievements, improvements and progress that have been made during the first Century of our Nation's Life!

In the constellation of States Indiana holds no mean position. While she is the 24th in area, she is *first* in her invested school fund, which amounts to \$8,799,191; *fifth* in population and in the number of her schools; *sixth* in churches; and the seventh in wealth!

In the counties of this great commonwealth—SHELBY holds no unimportant position. She is *THIRD* in the average value of her lands and in every other respect THE PEER AND EQUAL of all the rest!

In such contemplations, would we recall the signing of the Declaration of American Independence, that ushered in this era of Liberty and civilization—on this great National Holiday that we mean never to permit to be forgotten or slighted, as long as Time endures!